



Peter, Peaches, and the Porch Swing

By Linda Schultz

Peter knew that letters should make people happy.

Peter wanted a letter of his own. He ran to get the mail each day as soon as it arrived. He waved to Mrs. Casey on her porch next door as he carried the mail to his mother. Every day his mother got mail, but there was never a letter for him.

One day Mother said, "Peter, please take this letter to Mrs. Casey. It came to us by mistake." Peter ran to Mrs. Casey's yard and raced her cat, Peaches, to the porch. "A letter for you, Mrs. Casey."

"For me? Land sakes, no one ever writes to me. Who could it be?" As Mrs. Casey read the letter, she slowly sat back on the porch swing. Peaches jumped to her lap and purred. "Oh dear, Peaches," she said softly. "They can't come to visit this year. Oh, Peaches, my sweet little friend." She scratched Peaches' ears as her voice faded away.

"Letters shouldn't make people sad," said Peter.


"Oh, Peter, I forgot about you. I'm sorry, dear. Here, have a cookie. And take some to your mother." She took some cookies from a small blue plate and wrapped them in a napkin. Peter took them home.

Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 3
LA.A.2.2.1 Main Idea/Details Form C

As he sat on his swing munching a cookie, Peter saw Mrs. Casey swinging very slowly. Peaches lay curled up on a rug at her feet.

Suddenly Peter had an idea. He got a piece of paper and wrote:

Dear Mrs. Casey,
I like being your cat.
I like it when you scratch my ears.
I Love you very, very, very, very much.

Your friend,
Peaches 

And he mailed it.

When the mail came the next day, Peter heard Mrs. Casey laugh. She slapped her knee and laughed again. She called Peaches and scratched his ears. Then she waved to Peter. There was a piece of paper in her hand. "Hello, Peter," she called. "What a wonderful morning I am having." Peter waved back. He smiled. His morning seemed brighter, too.



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When the mail came the next day, Peter heard Mrs. Casey laugh again. She slapped her knee and rocked so fast that Peaches scrambled out of the way. Then she opened a drawer in her table and took out a notepad.

The next day when Peter ran to get the mail, there was one envelope — with his name on it. Peter tore it open and read:

Dear Peter,

I got a wonderful letter from Peaches and another wonderful letter from my porch swing. I would love to get a letter from you. It would make me very, very, very, very happy.

Your friend,

Mrs. Casey

So Peter wrote Mrs. Casey a letter. But he didn't mail it. He delivered it himself the next day. And he and Mrs. Casey laughed, ate cookies, scratched Peaches' ears, and rocked very fast on the porch swing. And together they waited for the mail.



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<p style="text-align: center;">Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 3 LA.A.2.2.1 Main Idea/Details Form C</p>
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Name _____ Date _____

Directions: Read the story “Peter, Peaches, and the Porch Swing”, then circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. Which sentence BEST tells what the story is about?
 - A. Peter writes a letter from a cat.
 - B. Peter makes Mrs. Casey happy.
 - C. Peter likes to play with animals.
 - D. Peter takes a letter to Mrs. Casey.

2. What happens AFTER Peter writes his last letter to Mrs. Casey?
 - A. Peter races Peaches to the porch.
 - B. Peter gets a letter from Mrs. Casey.
 - C. Mrs. Casey waits for the mail with Peter.
 - D. Mrs. Casey sends cookies home with Peter.

3. What happens to make Mrs. Casey sad?
 - A. No one ever writes letters to her.
 - B. Her mail kept going to her neighbors’ house.
 - C. She doesn’t know who wrote the letter to her.
 - D. She received a letter saying her visitors will not be coming.

4. Why does Peter go to Mrs. Casey’s house the FIRST time?
 - A. to swing and play with Peaches
 - B. to eat cookies with her and Peaches
 - C. to bring some cookies home to his mother
 - D. to deliver a letter that had come to his house by mistake

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5. Which letter makes Mrs. Casey laugh and slap her knee the FIRST time?
- A. the letter from Peaches
 - B. the last letter Peter wrote
 - C. the letter from the porch swing
 - D. the letter that had been delivered to Peter's house

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Answer Key – Peter, Peaches, and the Porch Swing

LA.A.2.2.1: The student identifies the following from a passage: main idea or essential message, relevant supporting details and facts, and/or chronological order or other sequence of events.

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